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10/657,670	09/08/2003	Yoshio Onuki	15228A	2150

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EXAMINER

LEUBECKER, JOHN P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3739

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No.

10/657,670

Applicant(s)

ONUKI ET AL.

Examiner

John P. Leubecker

Art Unit

3739

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 15 and 16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8-10, 13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 7, 11 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/059,681.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1 and 15 are objected to because of the following informalities: as to claim 1, terms "proximal end portion side" (line 5) and "distal end portion side" (lines 5 and 20) should be --proximal end portion-- and --distal end portion--, respectively, to be consistent with previously recited terms (note line 3); as to claim 1, line 21, phrase "the relative movement of the guide wire body *of* the endoscope" should be --the relative movement of the guide wire body *to* the endoscope--; as to claim 15, lines 23-24, phrase "the relative movement of the guide wire body *of* the endoscope" should be --the relative movement of the guide wire body *to* the endoscope--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 1-4, 8, 10, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shturman (U.S. Pat. 6,027,460).

Referring mainly to Figure 26, Shturman discloses a guide wire body (100,190), an appliance (120) having a bore (124) through which the guide wire body extends, and a retaining wire (170) extended along the guide wire body, the distal portion being coupled to the distal

Art Unit: 3739

portion of the guide wire body (at 174) and being arranged outside bore (124) (located in bore 126). The retaining wire is a metal and has a separable junction (174) at the guide wire body. Both the guide wire body and retaining wire are provided with an insulating coating (100,154, respectively). The proximal end of the retaining wire comprises a larger diameter portion (150, Fig.22). Shturman suggests the length of the disclosed device is around four to five feet (col.1, lines 50-53) which falls within the ranges set forth in claims 13 and 14.

5. Claims 1-5 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shturman (U.S. Pat. 5,360,432).

Referring mainly to Figure 1, Shturman discloses a guide wire body (96), an appliance (20) having a bore (24) through which the guide wire body extends, and a retaining wire (70) extended along the guide wire body, the distal portion being coupled to the distal portion of the guide wire body (at 74) and being arranged outside bore (24) (located in bore 26). The retaining wire can have a substantially flat sectional shape (Fig.6) and the guide wire can have a soft (elastic material) coupling member (76, Fig.38) (col.18, lines 26-30). The proximal end of the retaining wire comprises a larger diameter portion (52). Note insulating coating (54, 94).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

8. Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shturman ('432) in view of Dake et al. (U.S. Pat. 4,927,418).

Shturman ('432) discloses a vascular catheter device but fails to mention any particular length. Dake et al. teaches that an operable length for a vascular catheter device varies depending upon use but can be from about 120 cm to 175 cm. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have made the device of Shturman ('432) a length that would provide operability for its intended purpose, Dake et al. suggesting such length.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 6, 7, 11 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

10. Claims 15 and 16 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wilson (US 2002/0055732)

Ehr et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,706,827)

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

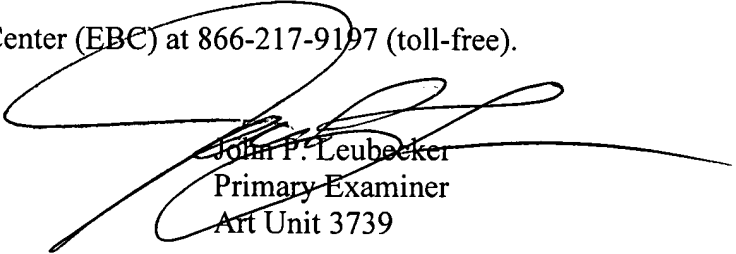
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 3739

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John P. Leubecker whose telephone number is (571) 272-4769. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM to 2:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C.M. Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John P. Leubecker
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3739

jpl